United States Department of the Interior
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

NOV - 5 1976

In Reply Refer To:
H34-880
ES-21365

Mr. Raymond Aker
President, Drake Navigators Guild
2605 Waverley Street
Palo Alto, California 94306

Dear Mr. Aker:

On behalf of Secretary of the Interior Thomas S. Kleppe, thank you for your thoughtful letter and enclosures concerning the nomination of Drake's Cove to the National Register of Historic Places. This material, together with the original nomination form and your "Report of Findings Relating to Identification of Sir Francis Drake's Encampment at Point Reyes National Seashore," has been reviewed by staff members of the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service, which maintains the National Register of Historic Places in this Agency.

The National Register of Historic Places is conceived as a planning tool, designed to identify all properties whose historic, architectural, and archeological values should be protected and taken into consideration in the planning process. It is not a commemorative device. Drake's Cove is already included in the Drake's Estero Archeological District which has been nominated to the National Register by the National Park Service. We therefore believe that its historic value as the possible or even probable site of the 1579 Drake encampment will be adequately recognized and protected. It is felt that further fruitful archeological research could be done at this and other possible Drake landing sites. We feel that to designate Drake's Cove as Drake's proven landing site, by accepting it as such for listing in the National Register, would be premature and an inappropriate use of the National Register.

The fact that we have reached this conclusion does not mean that the excellent research that has been conducted by the Drake Navigators Guild has been rejected. We hope that this work will continue, and

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you may rest assured that Drake's Cove, as part of the Drake's Estero Archeological District, will be preserved for future archeological research.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) Douglas P. Wheeler

Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior